United Nations E/C.2/2008/2/Add.19

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 November 2007
English
Original: English/French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2008 regular session
21-30 January 2008

Quadrennial reports for the period 2003-2006 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Association algérienne d'alphabétisation	2
2.	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations	5
3.	Interact Worldwide	7
4.	International Bar Association	10
5.	Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme	13

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

07-59404 (E) 271207 271207

1. Association algérienne d'alphabétisation

(Special; 1999)

1. Brief presentation: aims and activities

The Association algérienne d'alphabétisation (IQRAA), founded in 1990, is a national non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO). It has more than 200,000 members, drawn from all social strata, and has offices throughout the national territory. It is active in the fight against illiteracy, the school-dropout phenomenon, exclusion and poverty. It defends the right to education for all through a vast programme of information and consciousness-raising.

In 1999 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted the Association special consultative status. It is a member of regional networks and has been Chair of the Network of Arab Literacy NGOs since 2005.

Since the last report it submitted to ECOSOC, its activities have been stepped up throughout the national territory, in particular through the opening of new centres for women in rural areas, and it has taught more than 569,824 citizens to read and write. All its activities are aimed essentially at promoting the participation of illiterate persons in sustainable development initiatives and improving the status of women. The development of partnerships with United Nations institutions and agencies in Algeria has enabled the Association to develop considerable training programmes and design new manuals for learning.

2. Cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

In November 2005, IQRAA took part in the regional round table of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI), organized in Algiers under the chairmanship of Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, and presented a paper on her experience in combating illiteracy. At the request of the NGO Section of DESA, Ms. Barki, Chairperson of IQRAA, chaired an NGO committee charged with preparing a document on the theme "What environment and what measures will increase productive jobs and promote sustainable development?" The document was sent on 30 April 2006.

In April and November 2005, the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) took part in the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which enabled IQRAA, as a member of the Network, to participate actively.

3. Cooperation with United Nations agencies

- Participation in the meeting of the project on gender mainstreaming in reproductive health organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Rabat, Morocco, in December 2003.
- Participation in the preparation of the regional report of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) in Beirut, Lebanon, from 19 to 22 January 2003.
- Participation in the regional seminar on the reduction of vulnerability to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, organized by UNAIDS in Tunis, Tunisia, in October

2005: presentation of the teaching manual on the prevention of AIDS, produced with support from the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS.

4. Other cooperation

- Participation in the international meeting organized by the Agence nationale Française de lutte contre l'illettrisme (ANLCI) in Lyon in April 2005 within the framework of a week on access for all to writing and basic skills.
- Participation in the official inauguration of the General Assembly of the Africa Economic and Social Council, organized by the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 2003.
- Participation in the African dialogue on gender organized by Femmes Africaines Solidarité in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2004.
- Participation in the thirty-third regular session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Niamey, Niger, in May 2003.
- Participation in the General Assembly of the Network of Arab Literacy NGOs in Cairo, Egypt, in May 2005, and election of Ms. Aicha Barki as Chair of the Network.
- Participation in the international seminar on literacy and post-literacy policies and programmes organized by the Cuban Ministry of Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Havana, Cuba, in June 2005.

Other activities

Within the framework of the implementation of United Nations resolutions, activities are organized on a regular basis at the national level to celebrate the following days: International Literacy Day (8 September of each year), Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy (8 January), International Women's Day (8 March) and International Children's Day (1 June).

Review of literacy activities in 2003 to 2006

This period was marked by two activities:

1. The holding, in 2004, of the General Assembly of the Association, at which its national council and executive bureau were elected and Ms. Aicha Barki's term as Chair of the Association was renewed for another four years.

2. The adoption, by the Algerian Government, in November 2006, of a national literacy strategy, based largely on the more than 15 years' experience, professionalism and militantism of our Association.

A. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

1. Providing primary education for all

The Association, which is involved in the implementation of education assistance, has striven to mobilize parents around the schooling requirement, the only bastion in the battle against illiteracy.

At the start of each school year IQRAA organizes awareness and information caravans on the right to education. Thanks to those operations, more than 15,000 children have been able to rejoin the formal school system.

The Association continues to open literacy classes in schools, youth centres and cultural centres. It offers more than 3,500 classes throughout the national territory and receives some 72,000 learners yearly.

The number of persons who have become literate since 2003 is 302,091, including 266,308 women and 35,783 men.

For several years the Association has applied its know-how in correction centres, as a result of which 1,143 persons in 19 wilayas have become literate.

2. Eradicating extreme poverty

To motivate the population in the fight against illiteracy, the Association has striven to create a social bond with indigent population groups, informing them and steering them towards educational solidarity mechanisms and providing material assistance for everyday concerns. As part of its basic structures, IQRAA has developed a system of incorporation through apprenticeship. From 2004 to 2006, advantage was taken of the literacy/training programme by 2,092 women aged from 16 to 30 years. The programme enabled a number of our learners to acquire a degree of autonomy and to join in economic life.

B. Other activities of the Association

Trainer training

Strengthening the capacities of our teachers ranks high in the Association's programme. It is a constant need, in view of the mobility of literacy teachers. During the period 2003-2006, IQRAA trained more than 552 such teachers.

Study and research

For advocacy purposes IQRAA, with the assistance of the Centre National d'Etude et d'Analyse (CENEAP), has initiated two impact assessments: one on the project on literacy, training and integration of women (AFIF project) and the other on school dropouts.

Teaching materials

Under its "Useful Learning" programme the Association has provided itself with new learning and popularization manuals: Prevention and Health in the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Cultivating the Environment, Legal Prevention through Popularization of the Family Code. It has also reissued the manual dealing with the gender approach.

Acquisition of new structures

The Association has built another centre in the Tipaza region and acquired three local structures, including two in the south and one at Tizi-Ouzou.

Seminars and meetings

Several seminars have been organized by the Association, including one in January 2005 on the school dropout issue and one in December 2006 on the role of culture in combating illiteracy.

Communication project

Within the framework of the national information and communication technologies (ICT) programme, the Association has created the IQRAA Network, providing its basic structures with information technology (IT) and Internet means, in addition to establishing its own website.

C. Financing

The Association survives mainly on its membership dues and receives no State subsidy for its operation. The teaching staff is paid by the Ministry of National Solidarity and local communities, within the framework of youth employment, and the use of schools after school hours is granted by the Ministry of National Education. Thanks to its various partners, the Association has completed several projects (trainer training, design of teaching manuals, construction and equipment of centres, organization of events, etc.).

Conclusion

Despite the contribution of our movement and others to literacy efforts, the issue is still considerable in Algeria (21.39 per cent illiteracy). The national literacy strategy adopted by our country should enable Algeria to reduce that rate by half by 2015. IQRAA is a stakeholder in that operation, to which it is fully committed.

2. Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations

(Special; 1974)

I. Introduction

The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (CBJO) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It has served in that capacity since 1947 and has representation in more than 50 countries through three constituent organizations — B'nai B'rith International, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Its primary mission is to advance human rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the years of 2003 to 2006, the organization has been actively represented in various General Assembly NGO thematic discussions in New York, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, Switzerland; the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France; and the United Nations in Vienna,

Austria. Some of these discussions include the annual Department of Public Information-Non-Governmental Organizations meetings held in September of every year preceding the General Assembly. On 8-10 September 2004 we attended "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action", on 7-9 September 2005 we attended "Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal", and last year on 6-8 September 2006 we attended "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnership for Human Security and Sustainable Development".

Each year, the organization sends a high-level, international delegation to attend the Commission on Human Rights and now Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. Members of this delegation present written and oral statements on issues of concern. The delegation also consults with Member States regarding various resolutions of interest. The delegation also convenes a side event discussion and diplomatic reception, often on the Wednesday of the week they are there. We attended the annual United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) meetings on the following dates: the 59th session on 24-28 March 2003; the 60th session on 22-26 March 2004; the 61st session on 21-25 March 2005; and the 62nd and final session on 27 March 2006. We also attended the inaugural Human Rights Council on 19-30 June 2006 and have since attended the subsequent sessions beginning on 18 September 2006, 29 November 2006, 12 March 2007, and most recently 11 June 2007.

We have also attended the 35th and 31st Sessions of the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and conferences at United Nations Headquarters on 15 May-2 June 2006 and 10-28 June 2006; 6-23 July and 12-30 June 2004. The organization also works with a variety of NGO committees at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, including the Human Rights NGO Committee, the Committee of Religious NGOs, and the Executive Committee and Regional Council for the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the United States.

Every May since 2004, (10 May 2004; 12 May 2005; and 22-23 May 2006) one of the organization's constituent groups annually convenes a leadership delegation to the United Nations in New York. This intensive program with United Nations leaders, ambassadors, and staff fosters relations between civil society and the United Nations by identifying and exploring key areas of interest. On 22-23 May 2006, for example, the delegation included 52 members from Washington, DC, the following 8 states in the United States of America — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania — plus Canada, France, Italy, Panama, Uruguay, and the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Each event is also marked by a reception with the diplomatic community.

Since 2006, one of the organization's constituent groups annually convenes a side event in New York in conjunction with the United Nations Annual International Day of Holocaust Commemoration (27 January). On 27 January 2006, several representatives attended official United Nations events for the international day of commemoration to honour the victims of the Holocaust: in Vienna, Austria representative Willy Weisz attended, in Paris, France United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) representative Witold Zyss attended, and in Geneva, Switzerland representative Klaus Netter attended. In New York, one of our constituent groups organized a side event on the same day in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, bringing the Consul-General of Germany and the director of the United

States Holocaust Memorial Museum together to discuss Holocaust education and implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 on Holocaust remembrance. Latin American representative Eduardo Kohn also attended numerous related events, including Kristallnacht services on 11 November 2006.

The organization regularly publicizes relevant issues of concern at the United Nations and distributes these analyses and reports to its leadership and membership around the world, with the aim of educating the membership about the United Nations and human rights concerns. The organization often works in partnership with other organizations that promote awareness of the United Nations to the general public.

Humanitarian relief is also a key component. One of the organization's constituent groups has several on-going aid efforts, including for the Southeast Asian tsunami (27 December 2004 to present), Gulf Coast Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief (9 September 2005 to present).

One of the organization's constituent groups also plays an active role in other international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

3. Interact Worldwide

(Special; 2003)

Interact Worldwide is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with over 30 years experience in Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services in some of the world's poorest communities. Interact Worldwide's mission is to support the strengthening of comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights and HIV and AIDS policies and services which empower poor, vulnerable, and marginalised people and lead to positive sustainable changes in their quality of life. We do not deliver services directly but work though local partners, many of whom we have supported on a long term basis. Interact Worldwide's policy work serves to both create an enabling environment for these aims in international policy and reinforce national advocacy efforts in the countries where we support programmes.

Since our consultative status was granted in 2003 Interact Worldwide has undergone a comprehensive restructuring. The regions that we work in have reduced in number since our initial application given our choice to maintain activities in a series of focus countries to increase our depth. We are currently not supporting programmes operating in Northern or Western Africa nor the Caribbean or South America. Our current focus countries where we have long term partnerships and comparative advantage are: India, Ethiopia, Malawi, Pakistan, and Uganda. Additionally we continue to support specific projects in Madagascar, Nicaragua, the United Republic of Tanzania and Thailand.

At the partner and project level, the Africa and Asia regional teams have several strategic aims. Our strategic approach acknowledges that the overarching framework for international development is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and we work to enable our partners to make substantial progress towards the MDGs related to Health (specifically goals 4, 5 and 6) by 2015. Projects aim to

build the capacity of partners to support and sustain their work, including service delivery on HIV and AIDS. The capacity building also involves increasing the technical focus of partners through policy analysis and evidence based work. Partners are encouraged to build on and develop existing advocacy work within the country, and this is followed through to other civil society networks and actors within many of the regional programmes. The regional teams work with partners to build integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/HIV services and support, including positive prevention, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT+) and the SRH of HIV positive people. The poorest groups and individuals are always targeted, as they are the most vulnerable to poor SRH and therefore HIV and AIDS. All projects target the most marginalised and vulnerable groups and projects generally work towards educating these groups about their sexual and reproductive health and rights advocating for these rights on their behalf and encouraging their participation in advocacy activities, and improving their access to and the quality of SRH services. The partners for each project, along with other key NGOs and civil society actors, are supported and encouraged to develop new or existing advocacy work within the country, to build a stronger representation from civil society in holding local and national government to account. Strengthening health systems, private and public health services is a key target.

Our advocacy efforts in Western Europe seek to influence European policy makers on their international development policies but we do not support programming in Europe as we are no longer active in Development Education. In 2006 we established a Policy and Programmes department which now houses our expanded Policy and Advocacy team which leads on the relationship with intergovernmental fora. We are a founding member of Action for Global Health, a European network formed in 2006 to call on increased support from Europe to enable developing countries to make substantial progress towards the Health MDGs by 2015. Interact takes a lead in the network's efforts to highlight blockages to achieving MDG 5 with a focus on enhancing financing for health and addressing gender equity in health planning and service delivery. We are a member of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to work towards enhancing political commitment to achieving MDG 5 and supporting advocacy around the Global Business Plan on MDGs 4 and 5.

Throughout our history, Interact has sought to address gaps in SRH and HIV/AIDS services and to address the factors contributing to maternal mortality. In 2004, during the ten year review of progress against the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all by 2015 we attended the 37th session of Commission on Population and Development (New York, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 22-26 March 2004). We submitted a statement on behalf of 17 NGOs in attendance at the session which noted that the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up of ICPD did not take sufficient notice of the role of civil society in the promotion of the Programme of Action. We highlighted that NGOs such as ours have worked with communities to increase their awareness of reproductive rights and reproductive health as well as being strong advocates at national and international levels for the Programme of Action.

We attended the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Participatory Meeting for the 10 year review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Geneva, Switzerland, Palais des Nations, 14-15 December 2004) and the

Commission on the Status of Women (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 28 February-11 March 2005) to promote increased action on reproductive health in alignment with the 10 year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women. During the preparations of the World Summit (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 14-16 September 2005) an Interact representative was involved in the preparatory conferences to monitor the inclusion of references to reproductive health and gender in the outcome document. Our representative also attended the Informal Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 23-24 June 2005). From London we worked to influence the United Kingdom delegation to the engage the United Nations at the very highest levels to help secure a target for universal access to reproductive health by 2015 within the MDG framework.

We also sought to influence the High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS (New York, United Nations Headquarters 31 May-2 June 2006). As chair of the United Kingdom Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Network, Interact was centrally involved in selecting, briefing and de-briefing a civil society representative to the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to pursue global agreement to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health and integrating HIV/AIDS intervention into programmes for primary health care, mother and child health, sexually transmitted infections.

During the past four years Interact representatives have met with members of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to discuss possibilities for increasing Interact's involvement in reproductive health as defined in the ICPD Programme of Action in its programme countries. Meetings between Interact Worldwide senior staff with UNFPA secretariat members were held on 5-9 May 2003 and 28 February 2005. Interact has received strategic funds from UNFPA to pursue our advocacy activities in recognition of our ability to lead coordinated advocacy efforts in Europe and the United Kingdom. Interact has served on the Steering Group of the European Non-Governmental Organisations for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (Eurongos) since 2003 and chaired the United Kingdom network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights from 2004-2006 and still sits on its Steering committee. Additionally UNFPA and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) supported Interact Worldwide to convene an Advocacy Summit on Integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health into the HIV/AIDS and Malaria Component Proposals of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (Geneva, Switzerland, UNAIDS Headquarters, 4-6 December 2006) and sent high level representatives to the event.

Consultative Status was granted to Interact Worldwide in 2003 and in the years since we were granted accreditation, Interact has not participated as fully as we would have hoped in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. This has been associated with being new to the system and needing to take time to decide priorities for involvement while reshaping our policy and advocacy portfolio. We have also considered the resource constraints associated with support for delegates, especially those events held in New York. We look forward to the next period to deepen our participation in the work of ECOSOC and the United Nations as we step up efforts to achieve global health targets embedded in the MDG framework.

4. International Bar Association

(Special; 1947)

Part I: Introduction — The Aims and Purposes of the IBA

The IBA is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the global legal profession. It has a membership of 30,000 individual lawyers and more than 195 bar associations and law societies spanning all continents. Grouped into two divisions — the Legal Practice Division and the Public and Professional Interest Division — the IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information.

Human Rights Institute: Established in 1995 under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela, the IBA's Human Rights Institute (HRI) is a leading voice in the promotion of the rule of law worldwide. The HRI works to promote, protect and enforce human rights under a just rule of law in a variety of ways. These include: training lawyers, judges and prosecutors in human rights law and international humanitarian law; pioneering training programmes to strengthen the judiciary in post-conflict countries or countries where basic state infrastructure may have been eroded; undertaking fact-finding missions and sending trial observers to countries where the rule of law has deteriorated; making representations to authorities worldwide where individuals or the independence of the judiciary has been threatened; galvanising international support to lobby for change through media and advocacy campaigns; and providing long-term technical assistance to under-resourced Bar Associations and Law Societies. In addition, the HRI liaises closely with international and regional human rights organisations and produces newsletters and other publications to highlight issues of concern to worldwide media.

Part II: Legal Practice Division

Business Organisations Committee: The Committee participated on the drafting team established in 2001 to produce two reports: *the ITC Contractual Joint Venture Model Agreements* published in 2004 and *ITC Incorporated Joint Venture Model Agreements* published in 2006 by the International Trade Centre (ITC), which is a collaboration between the United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organisation The drafting took place with assistance of plenary sessions at the United Nations Offices in Geneva in 2002 and 2003. Copies of the publications are available from ITC's website and from the United Nations Sales & Marketing Section in Geneva and New York, the United States of America (the United States).

Insolvency, Restructuring, and Creditors' Rights Section: (a) The Section served as Official Non Governmental Organisation to the Legislative Guide to Insolvency project of Working Group V of the United Nations' Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), sending a delegation to the 31st session of Working Group V of UNCITRAL, held in Vienna (11-15 December 2006), which is now focussing on corporate groups in insolvency; (b) Participated in Working Group VI of UNCITRAL focussed on security interests and provided a speaker at

the UNCITRAL Colloquium on Intellectual Property Financing in Vienna (18-19 January 2006).

Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee: In 2006 the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) submitted comments on the Committee's International Survey on Anti-counterfeiting and Piracy and on the Committee's International Survey of Specialised Intellectual Property Courts and Tribunals.

International Sales Committee: In 2005 and 2006, the Government Procurement Subcommittee of the International Sales Committee has represented the IBA by participating at all spring and fall UNCITRAL Working Group I sessions regarding the revision of the Model Procurement Law. The sessions in 2005 took place in New York, the United States of America (4-8 April) and in Vienna (7-11 November). The sessions in 2006 took place in New York, the United States of America (24-28 April) and in Vienna (25-29 September).

Trade and Customs Law Committee: The Committee took part in the International Trade Centre Symposium on Multilateral Trade Treaties and Developing Economies, held in Geneva (31 October-3 November 2005), and discussed trade treaties in detail alongside representatives from UNCITRAL, The United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations' Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Secretariat, WCO, WIPO, the World Trade Organisation.

Human Rights Institute (HRI): (i) During the reporting period, the HRI collaborated with the United Nations in developing a comprehensive training manual on Human Rights in the Administration of Justice. The HRI held meetings with the ad hoc tribunals and participated in the Defence Advisory Body for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Since 2004, the IBA supported four fellows annually to provide assistance to the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia. The HRI also reviewed the new United Nations Human Rights Council prior to its inception; (b) All of the HRI's activities promote the rule of law, and therefore (iii) (a) Millennium Development Goal Number Eight. These activities are listed below.

Missions: the HRI coordinated missions to countries: March 2003 — Caracas, to assess the independence of the bar and the judiciary; July 2003 —Luanda, Angola, to assess the state of the post-conflict administration of justice; October 2003 — Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to assess the independence of the legal profession; October 2003 — Islamic Republic of Iran (Shiraz, Tehran, Esfahan), to investigate alleged threats against the independence of the legal profession; 7-17 November 2004 — Monrovia, Liberia, to examine opportunities to reform the justice system; June 2005 — Quito, Ecuador, to examine the dismissal of 27 of the 31 Supreme Court judges; and June 2005 — Moscow, Russian Federation, to examine proposed changes to the Supreme Qualification Board of Judges and its impact on judicial independence.

Technical assistance: the HRI provided technical assistance: Review of Cameroon's Penal Code (June 2003) in Yaoundé; Provision of a Legal Specialist to Mbabane, Swaziland (March 2003) to build the capacity of the Law Society; review of Swaziland's draft Constitution (August 2003) in Mbabane; provision of a Legal

Specialist to Harare, Zimbabwe (June 2004) to develop the continuing legal education programme; review of the domestic war crimes legislation of Kosovo (Serbia) in Belgrade (March 2003); provision of a Legal Specialist to Phnom Penh, Cambodia (14-19 December 2003) to evaluate possibilities for long-term collaboration; provision of a Legal Specialist (September 2005) to Kabul, Afghanistan to assist in establishing an independent bar association; review of proposals in Tokyo, Japan (December 2004) to alter the interrogation process and to introduce lay judges; provision of a long-term Legal Specialist to Lilongwe, Malawi to strengthen the Malawi Bar Association (June to December 2004); provision of a Legal Specialist (February 2005 to January 2006) to Maputo, Mozambique to strengthen the Mozambique Bar Association; provision of a second Legal Specialist to Mbabane, Swaziland (March 2004) to build capacity of the Swaziland Bar Association; and provision of a Second Legal Specialist to Lilongwe, Malawi (February 2006 to July 2006) to strengthen the Malawi Bar Association.

Training: The HRI organised training: (a) Training on international humanitarian law in the Balkans for lawyers, judges and prosecutors. Sessions include: Palic, Kosovo (Serbia) 8-10 May 2003, Igalo, Montenegro 26-28 June 2003 and 23-25 October 2003; Continuing Legal Education training on professional skills in Harare, Zimbabwe in January 2004; training in Almaty, Kazakhstan 8-9 December 2003 combating torture; training in Panama City, Panama 24 March 2004 on Human Rights in the Administration of Justice to lawyers and academics; training in Ankara, Turkey 2-3 December 2004 on combating torture; numerous trainings in Dubai, United Arab Emirates for Iraqis on international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and developing Continuing Legal Education programmes every two months from February 2004 to June 2006; (b) Training in Mexico City, Mexico (11-12 November 2004) on combating torture; training in Bogota, Colombia (February 2006) on the rule of law and fair trial standards; professional training in Dili, Timor Leste (February 2006); and training in human rights for judges in Mbabane, Swaziland (November 2005).

Interventions: The HRI wrote to the following countries' governments expressing concern at the treatment of legal practitioners: Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Trial Observations: In the following countries: Sri Lanka; Thailand and Zimbabwe (numerous).

Other work: The HRI also undertook the following activities: Finalisation of the Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers before the International Criminal Court; preparation of Human Rights Fact-Finding Guidelines; submission of an Amicus Curiae brief to the United States Supreme Court on the issue of the detention in Guantanamo Bay; review of the Regulation of the International Criminal Court; support for a strategic review of the Zimbabwe Law Society; establishment of an IBA/Open Society Initiative for a Southern African Litigation centre to assist on constitutional and human rights cases; establishment of an International Law Book Facility to donate of legal textbooks to developing countries; development of a Human Rights module to the College of Law of England and Wales Distance Learning Diploma; development of an International Criminal Court Outreach and Monitoring Programme to monitor and report on the

International Criminal Court; issuance of a report to the Government of Fiji on its *Promotion of Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unity Bill*; provision of technical assistance to the Iraqi Bar Association to develop a website; establishment of an advisory panel for the Iraqi Higher Tribunal; submission of an Amicus Curiae brief to the House of Lords concerning the admissibility in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of evidence obtained through torture; and creation of a database of decisions of Swaziland court decisions.

a. Activities in Support of Global Principles

All activities listed above support and promote Global Principles 1 and 2.

5. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme

(Special; 2003)

Introduction

Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO), within the framework of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, has executed projects and programmes in collaboration with its national and international partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The present report mentions the objectives of the organization and summarizes the activities it has carried out over the past four years (2003 to 2006) in collaboration with United Nations institutions.

1. Objectives of RADDHO

- To promote, protect and defend human rights in Africa and throughout the world;
- To promote international, regional and national human rights instruments;
- To denounce human rights violations;
- To contribute to the emergence and consolidation of the rule of law and of peace in Africa by helping to bring the African peoples closer together and promoting peace, friendship and solidarity among them.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(i) Participation of RADDHO in the meetings of the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations

At the third African Union summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July 2004, RADDHO disseminated the recommendations of the subregional conference on conflict dynamics and peace dynamics in West Africa, which was held in Dakar in April 2004 and in which there was United Nations participation.

Participation by RADDHO in the African Union summit in Abuja from 26 January to 2 February 2005 as a member of the consortium of African NGOs on Darfur, advocating for urgent action on the part of States.

The Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met, respectively, on 16 and 17 and 18 [sic] January 2005. RADDHO developed an advocacy programme and delivered the documentation on the circulation of light weapons, the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and amnesty laws in Senegal (Ezzan Act) and Guinea-Bissau.

Participation in the sixth summit of Union Heads of State, which took place in Khartoum from 18 to 24 January 2006 under the theme of education and culture, with a proposal for the creation of an African organization for education, science and culture, but was totally dominated by the controversy over the candidacy of the Sudanese President, Omer Al-Bashir. RADDHO pleaded against impunity and in favour of concrete action to judge Hussein Habré.

In 2003-2006 its permanent representative in Geneva followed the setting-up of the mechanism for the monitoring of human rights throughout the world, known as the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Participation in the Council's activities during the third session of 2006 on point 2, relating to the Human Rights Council, for the application of United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006. It supported the maintenance of an expert body to replace the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and contributed to the preparation of the fourth and fifth sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, marking the adoption of the universal periodic review mechanism, scheduled, respectively, for 11 to 18 June and 12 March to 5 April 2007, in Geneva.

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations organizations

Participation in the subregional seminar of the financial partners support group of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in Dakar from 22 to 24 April 2005, sanctioned by the setting-up of a national committee for the coordination and follow-up of its activities and its partners in humanitarian assistance in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and the establishment of OCHA units with NGOs like RADDHO, the Movement against Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa (MALAO), Save the Children and Oxfam Great Britain.

Participation in the regional seminar on displaced persons organized by UNHCR from 25 to 29 April 2005. The seminar provided an opportunity to examine the difficulties that face displaced persons in West Africa with a view to finding appropriate solutions. RADDHO works closely with UNHCR and the Minister of the Interior of Senegal within the commission on eligibility for obtaining the right of asylum and refugee status for nationals of West African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, etc.).

(iii) Activities of RADDHO in connection with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

RADDHO has participated in activities aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and taken an active part in the elaboration of

national strategy for 2000 to 2015. In order to make possible a dialogue among State and non-State actors, a steering committee was created. The committee has held several meetings, with the technical support of UNDP. The following activities have been carried out:

Goal: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The target of all these actions is the grass roots:

- Continuation of information, communication and advocacy actions in favour of the poverty and human rights approach;
- Training of the members of the national committee in the human rights approach and undertaking of a critical reading or analysis of all policy documents on general or specific strategies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (PRSD) and the Education and Training Development Plan;
- The elaboration of a plan of action covering two or three years, including action research on what has been done with the framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Documents (PRSD I and PRSD II), the definition of precise indicators, an inventory of the various relevant instruments and mechanisms updated by the partners and synergy with other disciplines using tools and approaches suited to the skills of the members of the national committee;
- The publication and popularization of the results of action research and the work of various workshops and meetings of the national committee and follow-up of activities and annual reports for public authorities and development partners;
- In October 2004 RADDHO, together with UNESCO, organized a public lecture at Dakar on the theme "poverty viewed as a violation of human rights", led by the Assistant Director of the Social and Human Sciences Section of UNESCO;
- With UNDP, participation in the UNDP workshop in November 2006 with the Minister of the Plan and Sustainable Development;
- Participation in the work of the national workshop organized in Dakar on UNDP premises, on 13 July 2006, by the Minister and High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Promotion of Peace, with the support of the UNESCO Dakar Regional Office for Social and Human Sciences, on the integration of human rights into the national anti-poverty strategy: present constraints and new prospects.

Goal: To achieve universal primary education

- With the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, a programme of support to young apprentices in the informal sector from 2003 to 2004 intended to enable them to obtain training certificates after their apprenticeship.

Goal: To promote gender equality and empower women

- With the training of a very large number of members in gender, female leadership, advocacy and lobbying.

Goal: To combat HIV/AIDS

- With the "Lesson for Life" programme, from December 2004 to February 2005.

Goal: To ensure environmental sustainability and set up a global partnership for development:

RADDHO is a founding member and ensures the coordination of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for the Defence of the Environment and the Development of the Senegal River Basin (CODESEN), which in 2004 held a forum in Dakar on human rights and access to water, sanitation and hygiene in the social production of the habitat.

RADDHO has been recognized as a member of the General Assembly of the Economic and Social Council of the African Union since 2005. It has contributed to the deepening and consolidation of democracy and the search for solutions for the maintenance of stability, security and civil peace in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal and has organized national observer training sessions, sent election observer missions and held workshops for strengthening the capacities of the civil-society organizations of those countries.

Conclusion

The contribution of RADDHO to various national, regional and international meetings (panel discussions and brainstorming and analysis workshops on the topics mentioned above) constitutes an important step in the direction of integration of standards and values relating to human rights and the rule of law. The approach is founded on the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence and inalienability of all human rights, whether civil and political, economic, or social and cultural, as well as other categories of fundamental rights (access to development, potable water, a healthy environment, peace and security).